

A P O S T E
WITH A PAC-
KET OF MAD
LETTERS.



L O N D O N,
Printed by *William Stansby*; for *John Smethwicke*, and
John Marriot, and are to be sold in *Saint Dun-*
stons Church-yard in *Fleetstreet*.

1 6 2 0.



TO THE RIGHT
WORSHIPFULL

MAXIMILIAN DALLISON
of HAWLIN, in the Countie of
Kent Esquire :

NICHOLAS BRETON *wisheth the*
happinesse of this World, and
Heauen hereafter.

I Find in *Latine, French, Italian, and Spanish*, Books of Epistles, dedicated to Men of good account, as well for their places, as spirit : but withall, I must confesse the Authors of those Writings, to haue beene men of those iudgements, that haue set downe matter worthy regard : Now, for my selfe, though I cannot stand in the ranke of those rare Wits, yet noting in your iudgement, that true Noblenesse of spirit, that by the re-


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The Epistle Dedicatorie.

gard of your good fauour, may grace the
works of an vnworthy Hope, and presuming
(vpon my knowledge of your discretion) to
receiue pardon of my presumption, hoping
that you shall find nothing displeasing to an
honest minde; some things profitable to a
yong wit, and wishing all, worthy the fa-
uourable acceptation of your good
patience, in all due thanke-
fulnesse for
your vnderferued goodnesse,
I humbly take my
leaue.

Yours in affectionate service,

NICHOLAS BRETON.




To the Reader.

GEntle if you be, be you so gentle Reader, you shall understand, I know not When, there came a POSTE, I know not Whence, was going I know not Whither, and carryed I know not What: But in his Way, I know not How, it was his hap with lacke of heede, to let fall a Packet of idle Papers, the Superscription whereof being only to Him that finds it, being my fortune to light on it, seeing no greater Stile in the direction, fell to opening of the inclosure, in which I found diuers Letters written, to Whom, or from Whom, I could not learne. Now, for the Contents: of the circumstances, when you haue read them, iudge of them; and as you like them, regard them. And for my selfe, if I heare you like well of them, when I meet next with the POSTE, it may be I will cast about with him for more of them: till then, fearing to be too tedious in this Letter, lest you like the worse of that which followeth, I
rest, as I haue
reason,

Your louing Friend,

NICHOLAS BRETON.



The Contents of this Booke.

- A Letter of comfortable aduice to his Friend, and his answere.
A Letter of aduice to a young Courtier, and his answere.
A mournfull Letter to a Brother, and his answere.
A Letter of a Iealous Husband to his Wife, and her answere.
A Letter of kinde complements to a Friend, and his answere.
A Letter of Loue to a Gentlewoman, and her answere.
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A Letter of Vnkindnesse vpon a deniall of Courtesie, and the answere.
A Letter to an vnthankfull person, and his answere.
A Letter to laugh at, after the old fashon of Loue to a Maid, and her answere.
A Letter from a Father to his Sonne, and his answere.
A Letter to a Friend familiar, and his answere.
A Letter to a familiar Friend, and his answere.
A Loue Letter, and the answere.
To a familiar Friend, and the answere.
A Letter of Loue to a faire Mistresse, and her answere.
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A Letter from a Father to his Sonne at the Vniuersitie, and the answere.
To his deare and onely beloued Mistresse *Susan* Gentle,



A
POSTE WITH A
PACKET OF MAD
LETTERS.

A Letter of comfortable aduice to
a Friend.

Honest Alexander, I heare thou art of late falne into an extreme melancholy, by reason of the sudden departure of Parinella out of this life: for thy sake I am sorry shee hath left her passage on this earth, though being too good for this World, shee bee surely gone to a better: now if thy mourning could recover her from death, I could willingly beare part of thy passion: but when it doth her no good, and thy selfe much hurt, let not a wilfull humor leade thee into a wofull consumption. What knowest she is senselesse in the graue, and wilt thou therefore be witlesse in the World? Say loue is extreme, and let mee beleue it, wilt thou therefore depriue nature of reason? God forbid it: well, thou knowest I loue thee, and in my loue let me aduise thee, not to goe from thy selfe with an imagination of what was, to lose that which is; because shee is in Heauen, wilt thou be in Hell: or if shee be halfe an Angell, wilt thou be more then halfe a Deuill? Oh, spend thy spirit to a better humor: let not the remembrance of her perfection dye thee into imperfections: nor make loue hateful to other, by seeing the unhappinesse in thy selfe. Oh, let not fancy shew folly in thee, howsoeuer vertue deserved honour in her: Leave thy solitarie humor, and come and liue with me, we will

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will devise some good meanes for the remoue of this melancholy. In the meane time, make not too much of it, lest it chance to proue a madnesse: Love thy selfe, and beleue thy Friend, and what is in me to doe thee good, command as thine owne: glad I would bee to see thee, as hee who did intirely loue thee, and so desirous to heare from thee, to the Almighty I leane thee. Farewell.

Thine as his owne, D. F.

His answer.

KIND Franke, I haue receiued thy friendly Letter, & note thy carefull Loue: but pardon me, if I doe not answere to thy liking. Alas, how can he truly iudge of life, that neuer kindly was in loue? or know how soundly to helpe a sorrow, that neuer inwardly felt it? Reading makes a Scholler by rule, and obseruation I know doth much in the perfection of Arte; but experience is that which toucheth knowledge to the quicke. My Mistresse beautie was the Moone-shine, whose vertue gaue light to the hearts-eye, nor her wisdom, an ordinarie wit, which put reason to his perfect vnderstanding: and for her graces, are they not written among the vertuous? Thou saidst well, shee was so heauenly a creature to make her habitation on this earth: & is it not then a kinde of hell to be without her in the world? Imaginations are no dreames, where substances are the objects of the senses, while the eye of memorie is neuer weary of seeing. Oh honest Frank, thinke thou hast not liued, that hast not loued, nor canst live in this world to haue such a loue die in it: It is a dull spirit that is fed wick obliuion, and a dead sense, that hath no feeling of loue: thinke therefore what was, is with me, and my selfe as nothing, without the insaying of that something, which was to mee as all in all. Is not the presence of an Angell able to ravish the sight of a man? And is not the light of Beautie the life of loue? Leane thou to burthen mee with imper-

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imperfections in my sorrow, for her want whose presence was my Paradise, and whose absence is my Worlds Hell: thou dost misconster my good, in languishing for her lacke, and knowest not my heart, in thinking of any other comforts: So: Franke, let it suffice, though I loue thee, I cannot forget her: and though I liue with thee, yet will I die for her: haue patience then with my passion, till time better temper my affection, in which most deuoted to thee of any man liuing, till I see thee, which shall be as shortly as I well can, I rest,
Thine, as thou knowest. D.E.

A Letter of aduice to a yong Courtier.

My good Cousin, I heare you are of late growne a great Courtier, I wish you much grace, and the continuing of your best comfort: but for that your yeres haue not had time to see much, and your kindnesse may hap to bee abused, let mee intreate you a little now and then to looke to that which I tell you: keepe your Purse warily, and your credit charily: your reputation valiantly, and your honour carefully: for your friends, as you finde them. vse them: for your loue, let it be secret in the bestowing, and discrete in the placing: or, if fancie be a Whanton, wit will be a Foole: scozne not Ladies, for they are worthy to bee loued: but make not loue to many, lest thou be beloued of none: if thou hast a fauour, be not proud of thy fortune, but thinke it discretion to conceale a contentment: goe neat, but not gay, lest it argue lightnesse, and take heed of lauish expence, lest it begger thy state: play little, and lose not much: vse exercise, but make no toyle of a pleasure: Reade much, but dull not thy bzaine, and conferre but with the wise, so shalt thou get vnderstanding. Pride is a kind of copenesse, which is a little too womanish, and common familiaritie is too nere the Clowne for a Courtier: but carrie thy selfe euen, that thou mayest fall on neither side: so will the wise commend thee, and the
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better sozt affect thee: but let mee not bee tedious, lest it may perhaps offend thee; and therefore as I line, let it suffice I loue thee. And so wishing thee as much good as thou canst wish to be wished, in prayer for thy health, and hope of thy happinesse, to my utmost power I rest, in affectionate good will,

Thine ever assured, H.L.

His Answer.

Sweet Cousin, I thinke you haue either some Court in the Countrey, or else you haue studied the Courtier, that you can set downe such rules, as are no lesse woorthy the reading, then obseruing: beleue me, they shall be my best lectures studies, and in my daily courses my Counsellors, my Sollicitors in loue, and my Iudges in honor: my Guiders in greatest hopes, and my Admonitions in greatest dangers: for your pains in them, I thanke you, and for your kindnesse, I loue you: your care of mee, I see by them, and will not unkindly forget them. I must confesse, I finde Courtiers close people, and Ladies strange Creatures, & loue so idle an humoz, that I am afraid to lose time in it: but the better by your aduice I hope to carrie a hand ouer it. For apparell, I will keepe my skint, and care for no fond fashion: and for exercise, nature is so giuen to ease, that good qualities are almost out of vse: and for vertue, poore Ladie, she is scarce able to liue with her pension: but for studie, I haue little time, so much companie withdralweth me: and for a Booke, next the Bible, your Letter shall be my Librarie. And thus smiling at such Gols, as thinke no grace, but in a gay Coat, not wit, but in a stale iest, noting many a Begger like a King, and many a Lord like a poore Gentleman, saying the truth of Salomon, in his conclusion of all earthly comforts, that all vnder the Sunne is vinitie: meaning not to bee a seruant to a base humoz, nor to reach higher then I may hold fast: in thankfull kindnes for thy carefull Letter, and faithfull affection to thy woorthy selfe, wishing thee so nere me, that I might neuer bee from thee, I rest

Thine, what mine owne, N.B.

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Amournfull Letter to a Brether.

God Brother, the miserie of my home life, the crossnes
of my cruell fortune, and the unkindnesse of my bnnatu-
rall kinne, haue made mee so wearie of this World, that I
long for nothing but my latest houre, and yet loth to despaire
of Gods mercies, willing to take any good course for my
commoditie, I haue of late bene perswaded by some of expe-
rience in their Trauels into those parts, that my travell into
the Low Countries would bee much to my commoditie, as
well for my Language, as my skil in such traffike, as I would
make vse of in those places: but my state being so downe the
winde, that I know not how to get vp the weather, hauing
no stocke to lay out, to giue mee hope to bring in, I will euen
set vp my rest vpon the resolution of fortune, and thrust my
selfe into some place of service, where I will either winne the
Horse, or lose the Saddle: if I die, mercie is my comfort: if
I liue, desert is my hope: but to the helping forth of this my
fzlozne spirit, good Brother, put to your hand: assuring
your selfe, that I will not lins to bee vngratesfull: for as my
heart loueth you, my soule shall pray for you, and when I haue
time to see you, I will not be from you. And thus agrieued to
charge you, neuer more meaning to trouble you, beseeching
God to inable me to requite you, in the true loue of a naturall
Brether, I rest

Yours as mine owne, N.B.

His Answer.

Dcare Brother, as I grieue at your crosses, so would I
that I could as well procure your comforts. But my
state much inferiour to my will, makes me vnable to satisfie
your expectation: and yet wil I hurt my selfe, rather then you
should perish: for you shall receiue by this Bearer what I
am able, and more as I shall bee better able. But touching
your courses for the Low Countries, I feare, your traffike
will be but little gainfull, the Wars so eate vp the Wealth of

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the Countrey: and for your intent touching Armes, I feare, your forwardnes is too great for your experience. Yet doe I so farre allow of your good minde herein, as I would lesse grieve to heare of your honourable death abroad, then see your discontented life at home: and therefore for winning the Horse, or losing the Saddle, leaue that to Gods blessing, who will bestow honoꝝ, as it shall please his diuine Providence: but, good brother, haue patience with thy crosses: attend mercy for thy comforts, and haue a care of home, howsoeuer thou farest abroad: I know thy minde is great, but take heede of pride, lest it be a bar to all thy fortune, & overthrow of all thine honoꝝ: I see thou art weary of the world: make then thy way towards Heauen, that God, who hath tryed thee with calamities, may blesse thee with sternall comforts. In hope whereof, willing in all I can to helpe thee, praying heartily for thee, with my vnfayned hearts loue to thee, vnto the Lord of Heauen I leaue thee.

Thy louing brother, D.S.

A Letter of a Iealous husband to his wife.

Wife, in as much kindnesse as I can, I aduise you to leaue such courses, as are neither to your credit, nor my contentment: you know, much company causeth many occasions of idle speeches, & young men are not in these dayes giuen to speake the best of their kinde friends: trifles and toys were better refused then accepted, and time idly spent, brings but beggery, or a worse blot: of all the Birds in the field I loue not a Cuckow in my house: truely I do not dissemble with you, your light behaviour doth much dislike me, and how glad I would be to haue it reformed, you shall know when I see it. Shall I make you fine, to please another, and displease my selfe? Shall I leaue you my house, to make an hospitalitie of ill fellowship? Fit mee not so with the foole, howeuer you feede your selfe with a soule humoꝝ: shake off such acquaintance, as gaine you nothing but discredit,

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dit, and make much of him that must as well Winter you as Summer you : Look to your House , haue a care of your Children , set your Seruants to worke , and haue an eye to the mayne chance : leaue tattling Gossips , idle Whistlers , vaine-headed Fellowes , and needles charge : so will God blesse you , and the World will thirue with you , your Neighbours speake well of you , and I shall truly laue you . And thus hoping that you will by this my secret admonition , haue a care of your good carriage , I rest in hope of your well-doing.

Your louing Husband , T.F.

Her cunning answer.

Husband , with as much patience as I can , I haue read Honor your vnwise Letter , wherein isalouise keepest such a Girre , that Loue doth but laugh at such Folliesse : much company driues away idle thoughts , and so; Fooles it is good to be afraid of had-I-wist : All Thoughts beget ill Speeches , and an old Dagge bites sozer then a young Whelpe: so; beggery , let it fall vpon the slothfull , I know how to worke so; my liuing : and so; Blots , speake to Scridlers , so; I haue no skill in wyting . Now , so; the Bird , to answer you with the Beast : I thinke a Calse in a Closet , is as ill as a Cuckoe in a Cage : If I were sullen , you would , sure , suspect my humour : and doe you mislike my merry behaviour ? Well , your counsell may bee deformed , in being so; wrongfully informed , to haue mee so; suddenly reformed : my Finenesse is your Countenance , and my Conuersation your Credit : and therefore , doe you shake off your lowzie humours , I will make choise of better Company; your House will stand fast if it fall not , and your Children quieter then their Father : your Seruants earne their wages , and the mayne chance is nicked well ynough : Women

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muſt talke when they meete , and men not bee ſcozned , though not entertained : and hee that keepeth a houſe , muſt ſeeke to deſtroy the charge : And ſo hoping that you will leaue your Zealouſſe, and thinke of ſome matter of moze woꝛth, as carefull of my carriage , as you of your credit , meaning to doe as well as I can without your teaching, and as well as if you were at home, I reſt

Your too much loving Wiſe, I. F.

A Letter of kind complements to a Friend.

Where I loue much, I ſpeake little, for affection hath ſmall pleaſure in ceremonies : your kindneſſe I haue found, my deſert I dare not ſpeake of, leſt it moze offend my ſelfe to thinke on, then you to looke on : but ſince you haue made me happie in your acquaintance, let mee not too long lacke your company ; for though I liue among many good neighbours, yet doe I much want the comfort of ſo good a friend , by whom I ſhould not onely gaine the uſe of time, but finde the profit of my deſire : which ioyning iſſue with your humors , cannot but ſo concur with your contentment, that if there be a Paradife on the earth , I hope to finde it in the faire paſſages of our loues , which grounded on vertue, and growing in kindneſſe, cannot choſe but be bleſſedly fruitfull. In briefe , till I ſee you, I will mourne , and if not the ſoner, I ſhall languish : for my wiſhing and want cannot be ſatiſſied with abſence : haſten therefore your comming , and make your owne welcome : for what I haue or am, enter into the rowle of your poſſeſſion, where, in the freſhold of my loue, I aſſure the ſubſtance of my life. And ſolcarning complements, to tongue ſpirits , in the truth of an honeſt heart, I reſt

Yours as you doe, and ſhall euer know, N.B.

His

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His Answer.

Sir, I haue receiued your kinde Letter, and I kinde you
very fine at your corner: you will speake and say nothing:
bee eloquent in plainenesse: but you must not speake in the
clouds to them that are acquainted with the Moone: and say
what you will, I must beloeue of my selfe what I list: for in-
deede, I know mine owne vntworthinesse of your commenda-
tion, in which, I will rather beare with your affection, then
be conceited with your opinion. Yet not to be either disdain-
full, or ingratefull, bee not so farre deceined in my disposition,
that wherein my presence may pleasure you, I will answere
you with mine absence, nor long delay your expectation: for
excuse is but cold kindenesse, and too much haste is not fit:
therefore as soone as I conveniently can, I assure you, you
shall see me, and in full measure with your affection finde me,
to the vttermost of my power, rather in action then protesta-
tion, during life, in faire weather or foule.

Yours as mine owne, W.R.

A Letter of Loue to a Gentlewoman.

Faire Mistresse, to court you with eloquence, were as ill
as to grieue you with grosse humors: let it therefore please
you rather to beleue what I write, then to note how I
speake: for my heart being fired in your eyes, hath bowed
my seruice to your beautie: in which finding reasons admi-
ration, can thinke but of nature in her perfection: in which,
being rauished aboue it selfe, craveth of your fauour to be in-
structed by your kindnesse: I meane no further then in your
obedience to your commandement: for if I be any thing my
selfe, it shall be nothing more then yours, and lesse then no-
thing, if not yours in all. I could commend you aboue the
skies, compare you with the Sunn, or set you among the stars,
figure you with th Phoenix, imagine you a Goddess, but I
will leaue such weake praysing fictions, and thinke you only
your

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your selfe, whose vertuous beautie, and whose honorable discretion, in the care of a little kindnesse, is able to command the loue of the Wise, and the labours of the Honest, with the best of their inducours in the happines of your imployment, to seeke the height of their fortune: thinke not therefore I flatter you in hope of fauour, but honour you in the desert of worthinesse: in which, if you will bouchsafe to entertayne the service of my affection, what you shall find in my loue, I will leaue to your kindnesse to consider. In the care of which comfort, craning pardon to my presumption, I rest humbly and wholly

Tours deuoted, to be commanded, E.W.

Her answer.

Sir, I haue heard Schollers say, that it is Arte to conceale Arte, and that vnder a face of simplicity is hidden much subtilty: of which, how silly Women need to be afraid, I will leaue to wise men to consider. And though I cannot in fine nor fit termes, answer the humour of your writing, yet after a playne and homely fashion, I will intreat you to accept of my writing: Perfection and Corruption cannot meet together in one subject, and therefore my imagined beauty, being but a shadow of deceit, beleue not your eyes, till they haue a better speculation: and for the inward parts of commendations, I am perswaded, that Wit is not worth any thing that is drawne into admiration of nothing: onely this, not kindly to requite your good thoughts of little worth, leaning fictions to idle fancies, let me intreat you not to mistake your figures, and to honour a better substance then my vnworthy selfe. And yet, so farre to assure your desert of my contentment, that wherein I may conueniently counteruaile the care of your kindnesse, excuse my indiscretion, if I faile of my desire: in which, wishing you more happinesse, then to be commanded by my vnworthinesse, I rest as I may,

Your louing poore friend, M.W.

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A Letter of scorne to a coy Dame.

Mistresse Fubbes, if you were but a little faire, I see you would be mighty proud, and had you but the wit of a Goose, you would surely hiss at the Gander: but being with as bad qualities as can bee wished, as rich as a new thorne hedge, I hope, fortune is not so mad, as to blesse you farther then the begger: It is not your holy-day face put on, after the il-fauour'd fashion, can make your half nose but ugly in a true light: and but that you are exceedingly beholden to the Tailor, you might be set vp for the signe of the Sea-crab. Now for your Parentage, to helpe out the hope of all the rest, when the Linkers son, and the Coblers daughter met vnder a hedge at the milking of a Bull, within forty weekes after what fell out, you know. Now not too plainly to lay open the foule member of a filthy carcasse, but as patiently as I can, to keepe Decorum in your description, let mee tell you, that all this, and much more, being true in your disgraces, I cannot chosse but murrell, that you mourne not to death in imagination, to thinke, that a Monster in nature, can haue any grace in reason: but let it bee as it is, I haue but lost a little breath in talking to a deafe eare, for I meane to take no more trauell to the subiect of so ill an obiect: and therefore meaning to make my farewell, and beginning with you, both at one instant, leauing you to lothe your selfe, as one, whome no creature can well be in lone withall: sozie that I neuer saw you, and neuer more intending to trouble you, in recompence of your coorse entertainment, I rest in all kindnesse, this present and alwayes,

Tours as much as may be, T.E.

Her Answer.

Master Swash, it is not your hussy rusty, can make mee afraid of your bigge lookes: for I saw the play of Ancient Pistoll, where a craking Coward was well cudgeld for his

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his knavery: your railing is so nere the Rascall, that I am almost ashamed to bestow so good a name as the Rogue vpon you: but for modestie sake, I will a little forbear you, and nely tell you, that a hanging looke, and a hollow heart, a cunning wit, and a corrupted conscience, make you so fit a mate for the deuill, that there is no Christian will desire your companie: now for your State, it is much on fortune, which brings many of your fellowes to a deadly fall, when the paine of their heares is only healed with a Halter: and for your lineage, when the Beare-wards Ape, & the Hangmans Donkie met together on a Hay-mow, what a helpe came of such a Litter, let the World iudge, I say nothing: now for your Stamp-feet, & your lame hand, suting kindly with your wzie necke, who would not make of their eies, that could endure the sight of such a picture? now, your wealth being but a few words, which you haue almost all spent in idle humours, hoping that the Torsteis will not quarrell with the Crab, and that when you haue slept vpon your Ale, you will get a medicine for your madnesse, till the Madcrocke doe tell you how the Dawcrocke hath caught you, leauing further to thinke on you, more then bitterly to loath you, glad that your entertainment was so much to your discontentment: In full measure with your malice, I rest

Yours as you see, A.W.

A Letter to a foule Dowdy.

Mistrie, I heare that you thinke your selfe faire, but you are much deceiued: for the Curriers Oyle is but a coorse kind of painting: and for wit, how far you are from vnderstanding, the wise can tell you: now, for qualities, where you learned them, I know not; but if you could leaue them, twere well: I wonder not a little, what madnesse hath possessed your braines, that you can make so much of your selfe: are your eyes your owne? or are they so sealed, they cannot see: get you to your prayers, & leaue making of loue: for age
and

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and euill fauour, had need to bee helped with a good Purse. I heare you Studie Musicke: indeed when an Owle sings, the Nightingale will hold her peace: but for shame learne not to dance, for a barrell can but tumble: but would you vse a medicine for your teeth, you might bee the better to speake with in a morning: what ayles you to buy a Fan, except it be to hide your face? and till your hands be whole, you should weare but Dogs leather for your Gloues: in truth you abuse your selfe, that you keepe not your Chamber, for none sees you, but laughs at you, or at least loaths to looke on you: bee therefore content to doe as I wish you, speake with none but by Attorney, leane the Painter to better pictures, and rather grieue at Nature for framing of you, then thinke of any thing that may helpe you: your goods bestow on mee for my counsell, and make sute to death for your comfort. And thus hoping that being weary of your selfe, you will hasten to your Graue, I end

Yours as you see, H. I.

Her Answer.

Sir, you may thinke your selfe wise, but you doe not shew it: for railing words, are the worst testimonies of a good wit: for good qualities, I thinke you know them not, nor can goe from the euill: but for madnesse, I thinke it sozteth best with your humors. For the helpe whereof, it were good that you were let bloud in the braine: but for ill sight, who is so blind as bold Bayard that will not see his owne folly? my prayers I will not forget to God, to blesse me from such foule spirits on the Earth: and for Loue more then Charitie, I hold you the farthest off in my thought: now knowing your povertie, I wonder you wil speake of a Purse: as for an ill-favored face, goe to Paris-garden to your good brother: indeed your Croidon sanguine, is a most pure complexion, but for your Tobacco, it is good purge for your rheume: for my Fan, it keepes mee sometime from the sight of such a Wizard as your good face: and for my hands, I keepe my nailes on my fingers,

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fingers, though you cannot keepe the haire on your head : now
for laughing at Fooles, you are prouided for a Corcombe, and
for lothing an ill countenance, let the Hangman draw your
Picture: be therefore contented to be thus answered : speake
wisely, or hold your peace, and bee not busie with your bet-
ters, lest you know the nature of had-I-will : so, hoping that
you will be so warie of the World, that you will hang your
selfe for a Medicine to heale your wits of a melancholy, I will
bequeath you a Halter vpon free cost, at your pleasure, and so
I rest
Your friend for such a matter, F.P.

A Letter for the preferring of a Seruant.

Sir, knowing your necessarie vse of a good seruant, and re-
memb'ring your late speech with mee touching such a mat-
ter, I thought good to commend vnto you in that behalfe the
bearer hereof W. T. a man, whose honest secrecy, and carefull
diligence vpon a reasonable triall, will soone make p'roofe of
his sufficiency: his parentage is not base, nor his disposition
vile, but in all parts exquisite as one of his place: such a one,
as I am perswaded will fit your turne: if therefore at my re-
quest you will entertaine him, I doubt not but you will
thanke me for him: for I was glad to get him for you, and
hope to heare hee will much content you: and thus loth to
trouble you with longer circumstances, leauing his service
to your good regard, and my loue, to your like commande-
ment, in affectionate good will, I rest
Yours ever assured, N.B.

The answer.

Sir, I haue receiued both your Letter and the bearer, both
which I will make much of for your sake: for in the one
I will often see you, and in the other remember you: your
commendation of him, argueth your knowledge, a sufficient
warrant for his worth, which I will as kindly, & thankfully
thinke on: his countenance I like wel, and his speech better,
and

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and for the performance of my expectation, I am the better perswaded of his discretion: when I see you, you shall know how I like him: in the meane time, hee shall find that I will loue him: and for all things necessary for his present vse, I find him sufficiently furnished; but if I finde his want, it shall be sone supplied. So thanking you for sending him, and wishing you had come with him, remayning your kind debter, till a good occasion of requitall, with my heartie commendations, I commit you to the Almighty.

Your very louing friend, R. T.

A Letter of counsell to a Friend.

My best approued, and worthest beloued Philo, I heare by some, of late come from Venice, that seme to be somewhat inward in thy acquaintance, that thou art of late falne into an amorous humour, especially with a subject of too much vnworthinesse: a newes, that (knowing thy spirit) I could hardly beleue, that vpon solemne affirmation, I was sorry to heare: for, Beautie without Wealth, is but a beggerly charme, and Honour without Vertue, is but a Tittle for a Title: Hath she a glib tongue? it is pity she hath not a better Wit: Is she witty? it is a sorrow it is no better bestowed: for the craft of one Woman, is the confusion of many a Man: doth she say she loues thee? beleue her not: nay, doth she loue thee? regard it not: for it is a icwell of so little worth, as will giue but losse in the buying: I feared the Plague had taken hold of thy Lodging: but thou art peppered with a world of infection: thy Studie is infected with idlenesse, thy Brayne with dizzines, and thy Spirit with madnes. Oh, leaue these follies, thinke Loue but a dreame, and Beauty a shadow, and Folly a witch, and Repentance a misery: wake out of thy sleep, and call thy wits together, be not sotted with an humoꝝ, nor slave to thy selfe-will: leaue courting of a Curtizan, and keepe thy breath for a better blast: saue thy purse for a better purpose, & spend thy time in more profit: let not the wise laugh at thee,

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and the honest lament thee: for my selfe, how I grieue for thee, I would I could tell thee: but let thus much suffice thee, beleene nothing that she saith, care for nothing that she doth, nor giue her any thing that shee wants: see her, but to purge melancholy: talke with her, but to sharpen wit: giue her, but to be rid of her company, and vse her but according to her condition, so shalt thou haue a hand ouer those humours, that would haue a head ouer thy heart: and bee Master ouer thy senses, by the vertue of thy Spirit: otherwise, Will, hauing gotten the bit in his teeth, will run away with the bridle, and Reason being cast off, may neuer sit well againe in the saddle: but why doe I vse these perswasions for the remove of thy passions? If thou be soundly in, thou wilt hardly get out: if thou be but ouer-thwes, thou mayst bee saued from drowning: whatsoeuer I heare, I hope the best: but to auoid the worst, I haue presumed out of my lone, to send thee the fruit of my affection. In which, if my care may doe thee comfort, I shall thinke it a great part of my happinesse: howsoeuer it be, I commit the consideration to thy kindnesse. And so till I heare from thee, which I daily long for, I rest

Thine as mine owne, N. B.

His answere.

GEntle Millo, I haue receiued thy most kind and carefull Letter, a Messenger of thy most honest loue, who hath told mee no lesse then I wholly beleue: that lone in idlenesse, is the very entrance to madnes: but yet, though I will thinke on thy counsell, giue me leaue a little, to goe along with conceit: whereof let me tell thee my opinion: Beautie without wealth is little worth, but being a riches in it selfe, how can it be poorely valued: and Honour, being but the state of vertue, how can you pluck a tittle out of her Title: the tongue is the instrument of wit, and wit the approner of discretion: where, if Reason be grauelled, Nature may be admired: now for wozts, they haue their substance, and Loue is not to be abused: for it is a Jewell well known, that is worthy his price:
infections

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infections are euerywhere, and iealousie a most cruel plague: but rid thy selfe of that disease, and feare not my health in the other: reconceit is a kind of dizziness, which worse tormented then with idlenesse, is troubled with too strong a madness: but hee that is brwise, had need to be reformed, and he that laughs at an imperfection, may fall himselfe vpon the Foole: now for a mad Dreame, or an imagined Witch, a conceited sleepe, or an intreated walking, I must confesse they are pretty humours, and will thinke of their errors: now for sotted and flauery, and for courting in knauery, be perswaded that time will imploy my purse to better purpose: then griene not for me, but onely loue me, and let that suffice thee: and for thine aduice in seeing, talking, and giuing, feare not the had-I-wist of my folly: for he that is Master of himselfe, shall not need his Mistresse, and therefore he that cannot ride, let him leaue the saddle: for, Reason hath a power ouer Wit, where Wit is but a seruant to Nature: in the certaintie of which course, intending so to lay my hand on my heart, that I will feare no Hornes on my head, with many thanks for thy kind perswasions, hoping thou wilt take no exceptions at my constructions, intreating thee to beleue of me no more then thou needest, and to loue me as thou doest, in the faith of that affection that holds thee deare to my loue, I rest during life

Thine obliged and deuoted, W. B.

A Letter of comfort to a Sister in sorrow.

Dear Sister, I heard lately of your husbands departure for the Indies, when with no little sorrow I considered your heauie case: in which, finding his want to bee grieuous, and your friends cold in comfort: I could not chuse, without unkindnesse, but remember these few lines of my loue vnto you: I know your state is weake, how faire soeuer you make your weather, but the more is your patience worth his honour, that can so nobly conceale your discontentments: for my selfe, I would I were able to doe you good: but what I haue

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haue so can procure, shall not faile to doe you pleasure, but if your minde be too great to stoop to be beholding, what I am able to doe, take a duty in my Brothers loue: good Sister, therefore be of good chere, and put your care vpon me. I will see you often, and loue you euer: for a Creature of your worthinesse, is seldome found in your Sex: that for her Husbands loue will aduenture the state of her liuing: your Childzen are not many, but such as are shall be mine, and you to mee as my selfe: take therefore as little thought, and as much comfort as you can, no doubt but God that tryeth his Seruants, will blesse them: hope then of my Brothers happy return, and till he come, command me: shortly, God willing, you shall see mee: in the meane time let mee intreat you, kindly to accept this little token of my greater loue, which is but assurance of the beginning of my affections neuer ending: in which predicament of true friendship, I rest euer assured.

Your louing Sister, E.W.

Her answer.

Sweet Sister, I haue receiued your kind Letter, and louing token, for both which, I am your thankfull Debtor, but touching my Husband, though his wants were grieuous, yet to want him is my greatest sorrow, for in the stay of his loue, was the state of my liuing: I am sorrie that you know my weakenesse, and wish it but in strength to answer your kindnesse: but, good Sister, though I am willing to conceale my crosses, to be beholden to so honorable a Spirit, I count it not the least of my happinesse. Therefore, though I had denoted my selfe to solitarinesse in his absence, your company shall be to me as Light in Darknesse, and noting the nature of your kindnesse, will euer be beholding to your loue: come then to me when you will, and command me what you will, for I will be as good as you will: my Childzen are my worlds ioyes, and my hearts iewels, in whose faces I will behold their Father, in whose loue I will spend my life: so in a merry goe sorrow, grieving for his absence, and wishing your presence, praying

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praying for his happy returne, your health, and mine owne patience, that in too much passion of affection, I fall not vpon indiscretion, with most hearty thankfull loue, I commend my life to your commandement.

Yours affectionately bound, E.G.

A Letter of Loue to a faire Mistresse.

Faire Mistresse, to trouble you with a long circumstance, I might perhaps feare you with the losse of time, and to make an end ere I begin, might argue little care in my conceit, but to auoid both Superstitions, let mee a little intreat you with patience to peruse, in a few words, the summe of a long Tale, in which the truth of Loue, to the latest houre of death, protekteth the ioy of his life, but in the fruit of your fauor, of which the thought of his vnworthinesse doth too much shew his unhappinesse: Time makes mee too brieue, but in your wisdomme is my hope of vnderstanding, that in my tryall you may trust me, and by desert esteeme me, in which, if I deceiue your expectation, let me die in the misery of your disdaine. Thus not to flatter you with a faire stile, in the state of your worthy commendation, beseeching to be commanded by the kind care of your discretion, in the bands of auowed seruice, I humbly rest

Yours alwayes assured, R.O.

The Answer.

Sir, as I would bee loth to bee thought prond, I would as vnwillingly be found idle: either to beloeue too well of my selfe, or not to haue a respect of other: Truth is seldome marked with smooth wordes, and Loue is not bred, but vpon great contentment: your liking may be greater then my desert, and so alter vpon a better consideration: but mistake not your happines, in my fauors vnworthines, where the best of my commandement may bee the least of your contentment.

D

Your

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Your consideration of time may excuse my shortnesse of writing, where, in a word you may understand, that indeed I intend, that truth is honourable in loue, and vertue the fairest ioy in affection: in which, if I doe not misconstrue your conceit, I will answere the care of your kindnesse: in which, according to the due of desert, you shall find the effects of your desire. And so for this time I rest

Your poore friend, A.T.

A Letter of counsell from a kind Father.

My deare Sonne, you must not from your Father looke for a flattering loue, nor take it unkindly, that I suspect your ill courses: for I haue passed the dangerous time that you now are in, & haue hardly gone thorow the byers; and therefore in a zealous feare, from an inward care, I cannot choose but giue you warning of what may preiudice your good. Beautie is a bewitching object, and wantonnesse is the ruine of wit: prodigalitie quickly makes a poore man, and he is onely rich that liues contented. But my good Son, about all things serue God, and keepe a cleane conscience, passe not the limits of allegiance, nor build Castles in the Ayre; take heed of extremities, for they are out of the course of discretion: and the fruit of ignorance yelds but the sorrow of repentance: young men may be witty, but seldome wise, and sometime though Art bee a great perfecter of experience, yet obseruation is better then conceited cunning. Cypence is necessarie vpon occasion, and hope is not amisse, vpon desert, but Reason sometime is more regarded then rewarded, where Will is too powerfull to be resisted. I heare that you are much giuen to Alchimyarie, it is a studie of great charge to many, and profiteth few: yet I forbid you no good labour, so that you lose not by the bargaine: Use therefore a care in the imployment of your time, and wherein my helpe may further your good, seeke no other friend for your comfort: For though I would not wish you to dis-
daine

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daine kindnesse, yet would I haue you as little as you may, to be beholding to any man: for the Prodigall are commonly talkatiue, and the Couetous negative, and what a grieve it is to want, I pray God you neuer know. Any qualitie in a mediocritie, I gladly allow you, but let not your loue be car-ried away with idle imaginations. I haue sent you an hundred Crownes, well may you vse them, and when you need any more, send to mee for them: for your affection touching Marriage, I would it were bestowed as I could wish it; how-soeuer it be, it shall be much amisse if I mislike it. I haue sent you likewise a Horse, now and then to manage in a morning, but I pray you forbear to vse him as a Hackney to ride by and downe the Streets in idle humours. Conuerse with no Foles, for you shall lose time with them, and take heed of knaues, for there is much to be feared in them. Long not after newes, lest you be gild with a Jest: and take heed of Drunkennesse, for it is a beastly humour. Make much of thy monie, & abuse not thy friend: be carefull of thy selfe, and forget not thy Father, whose earthly ioy is but in the hope of thy happinesse, and whose deadly sorrow would be to see thee doe amisse. What shall I say more to thee? thou knowest I loue thee, and onely in my loue am thus carefull ouer thee. Accept then my admonitions, and ponder vpon the constructions, they may hap to doe thee good, but harme they can doe thee none: Use them therefore for thy best auaille. After the terme, the vacation will call thee into the Countrey, where knowing thy Fathers house, thou mayst make thine owne welcome. Till when and alwayes, I will pray for thee, that God will blesse thee, that I may haue ioy in thee.

Your louing Father, H.W.

A kind answere of a louing Sonne.

My deare Father, as I will not flatter my selfe with your loue, so can I not but ioy in your kindnes: whose carefull counsell within the compasse of so few words, I will

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locke vp in my heart, as the best Jewell of my life: for to serue God, is the dutie of a Christian, and no longer let mee lye, then in the care of that comfort. A cleane conscience I finde like a cleane paire of sheets, where the soule, after labors, may take a safe place of rest: to passe the limits of Allegiance, merits the losse of life, and hee is borne unhappie, that is vn-naturall to his Countrey: and ayrie Castles, are but mad mens imaginations: I know, extremes are not durable, nor often profitable: and Repentance a payment, that pincheth the Heart of vnderstanding.

I find the instruction of the Aged to bee the best direction of the Youthfull, & obseruation with experience, to make the perfection of Art: the necessitie of experience cannot be auoyded, but the hope of desert may bee deceived: for while Will stands for Judgements, there is no holding of Argument: touching Alchymistrie I heare much, but beloue little: and for the charge, I will not wasse your Land, to make a new Metall: but if by my industrie I can doe good, I will take the benefit of time: for qualitties, I thanke your large allowance, the best meanes with labour to attayne them: for, Teachers are woorthie their rewards: to bee beholding I loue not, and hate to bee vngratefull: But as I follow not the Prodigall, I haue little pleasure in the Couetous: and for idle imaginations, I can vse them as fictions: for your crownes I humbly thanke you, and hope to bestow them to your liking: Your Horse will doe me much pleasure, and cause mee to see you the sooner. For gallopping the streets, it is like children vpon Hobby-horses, but giddie heads haue such humours, that God knoweth what will become of them. For marriage, though the course be honorable, yet could I be content to forbear it, though in the direction of my affection, I will be much ruled by your discretion: Foles cannot vnderstand me, and knaues will but trouble mee; but from the company of such ill conditions, the Lord of Heauen deliuer me: good newes come neuer too soone, nor bad too late, and therefore as they are I will esteeme them: for Drunkenness, neuer doubt me,

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for it is most loathsome to my nature, and for my money, though it bee my servant, I will hold it as my good friend; for my friend, he shall be my selfe: but my Father, my hearts loue, and my lifes comfort, in whose careful admonitions, how kinde I finde thy instructions, the obedience of my dutie shall make knowne to your contentment: the vacation is nere, and I will not long be from you, where finding you well, shall bee my best welcome: so thinking my selfe blest in the Heauens, to haue so good a Father on the earth, beseeching God to make me joyfull in your eyes, by the graces of his mercies, in prayer for your long health, with your hearts cuer happinesse: In all humble thanks I take my leaue.

Your obedient Sonne, T.W.

A Marchants Letter to his Factor.

As I haue reposed trust in your care, I looke for your performance of my credit: your abilitie in managing such matters as I haue committed to your charge, I make no doubt of: and therefore hoping in your discretion to heare of my expected contentment, I will looke by your next Letters to heare of the summe of my desire: in the meane time let me tell you, that I haue sent you fourescore broad Cloathes, and thirtie Barzies, with such other commodities as I thinke fit for your vse in those parts: I pray you make your best market, and take heede of your Creditors: for I heare there are men reputed of great wealth, in suspicion to play banquerupts: haue therefore a care of your businesse, your travels shall not be vnconsidered: your French Wines I heare this yere are very small, and your Gaskoigne Wine very deere, Wines cheape: but you know your markets, and so I hope you will haue care in disbursing your money, for it is hardly come by, & as this world goes, doth much in great matters: if there be any newes of worth, acquaint me with them, and in any wise doe not trouble mee with vntruths: your Cousin telles mee that you are in good regard with the

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Gouernour, for certaine clothes that you lately bestowed on him, he told me the cause, and therefore I commend your discretion: for sometime it is better to give then to saue, when it turneth to aduantage. In summe, let this suffice you without further circumstance, you haue my loue and my purse, I pray haue a care of them both: so till I heare from you, I rest

Your loving Master, W. H.

His Answer.

Sir, I beseech you, mistrust not your trust, nor haue any feare of my care: for hauing both your loue and your purse, how can the one let me forget the other? No, Sir, be you assured, howsoeuer Banquers play banquerout, sure pawns will deceiue no credit: and touching such affaires as I haue in charge, doubt not your expectation of my dispatch: your Clothes I haue receiued, and like them very well: your Rarities are very good, I would you had sent more of them, for they are much in request, and wel sold. I haue by good hap met with a hundred Tunne of Gascoigne Wines, vpon a good Market, as you may know by my Note. Wines are good, and good cheape, and therefore I haue sent you greater store of them: on the Fats you shall find my Marke, with two letters of your Name. I haue sent you likewise a Tunne of Cinchiles, which I bought by a great chance, the price you shall finde in my Note with the rest. By the next Post you shall heare what I neede: in the meane time, hauing no intelligence of worth, loth to trouble you with trifles, glad to performe that dutie that your kindnesse hath bound me to, wishing to liue no longer then to discharge the office of an honest care, praying for your long health, and euermore lasting happines, I humbly take my leaue,

Your faithfull Seruant, C. B.

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A Letter of Challenge.

My wrongs are so many, as may no longer be digested, and your excuses so idle, as I will henceforth despise them, for your words are but winde, and therefore I am wearie of them: and therefore if you bee not so cold a complexion, that you dare not maintaine your reputation, meete me to morrow early in the morning, in some fields a mile out of ~~Elwone~~ ^{Elwone}, and bring with you such Armes as you doe ordinarily carrie: assigne your place, and houre, and faile not your appointment, that God, the Judge of right, may determine of our wrongs, and the point of the sword may put a period to our discourses. Thus having blowne over an idle paper, with a few last words of my intent, answered mee as I expect, or heare of me as it will fall out, in haste.

Your enemy to the death, T.P.

The Answer.

What you haue written to me, I returne vpon your selfe, as loth to lose time in answer of such idlenesse: if you durst goe alone, I would goe with you: but let it suffice you that I know you, and therefore meane not to trust you: but bring a friend with you, and I am ready for you: come to my Lodging as early as you will, and though I would be loth to breake a sleepe for you, yet I will take a little paine to answer you: and for the field we will cast Lots for the place, where God and a good conscience will quickly determine the quarrell: but I feare, the point of the sword will make a Comma to your running; which if it doe, you shall finde what will follow. And so leauing further words, wishing you to be as good as your word, I end,

Yours as you mine, H.W.

A merry Letter, or newes of complaints.

Honest George, mine old schools fellow and kind friend, Glad to heare of thy home quiet, how-euer I fare with my farre trauell: whereas thou writest vnto mee, for such newes

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newes as this place yeelds, let me tell thee, that there are so many and so few of them true, that I dare almost write none, only this vpon my knowledge I dare deliuer thee, that of late in this Citie, there are a number of complaints, euery houre in the day, but all to litle purpose: The Souldier complaines either of peace or penurie: the Lawyer either of lacke of Clients, or cold fees: the Marchants of small trafficke, or ill fortune: the Trades-men of lacke of Chapmen: the Labourers of lacke of worke: the poore men of lacke of charitie, and the rich men of lacke of money: the Thiefe of the lacke of booties, and the Hangman that his Trees are bare: in briebe, if I should tell thee of all the complaints that I heare of, aswell among the Feminine, as Masculine gender, how some old Women cry out of young birthists, and some young Wenches complaine of old Misers: How some complaine of their customers, and some other of their neighbours, it were such a world of idle stufte, as would but trouble thee in the reading: but since their complaints are all to so litle purpose, for that Souldiers are but for extremities, though honorable in their exploits, and Lawyers are so troublesome, except vpon agreement of controversies, though Judges are worthy honour in their execution of Justice: and Marchants may beare with Fortune, when their Coffers are full of coine, though in respect of their traffik. they are the maintenance of the Common-wealth, & Trades-men may sell cheape, when their best Wares are all vntered, though it is necessary that they be set on worke for the maintenance of the State, and laborers may rest, when their haruest is in, though it be needfull to set them to worke for the auoyding of idlenesse: beggers may hold their peace, when they haue filled the patches of their profession, though it be not amisse to relieue them for the exercise of charitie: now the rich men may strug their Souldiers when they haue no ble for their bags, though sometime it be requisite rather to be sparing then prodigall: and for the Thiefe, let him sigh till the Hangman doe help him, and for the Hangman let him mourne, for he is sure the Deuill lies
in

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in waite for him, and therefore let the old musill munch, and the young titte mourne, I cannot helpe them, but as I heare of their complaints, I haue witten thee the contents, which being scarce worth the reading, I leaue to thy worke bling. And so sorrie that I haue no matter of worth, wherewith better to fit thine humor, in as much kindnesse as I can, I commend my loue to thy commandement, and so I rest

Thine ener as his owne, W.P.

The answer to the laugh.

My good Wag, I see tranell hath not so altered thine humour, but thou wilt ever be thy selfe with thy friend: for thy kinde Letter I thanke thee, and as kindly as I can will requite thee: as you are there full of sorrow, we are here full of mirth: for in euery place there is nothing so common as laughter: one laughs at another; the wise man laughs at the foole, to see the nature of his imperfections: and the foole laughs at the wiseman, because nature lets him know none of his sorowes: the rich man laughs at the poore, to see the manner of his life, and the poore man laughs at the rich, to see the miserie of his care: the faire laugh at the foule, to see how they are despised: and the foule laugh at the faire, to see how they are troubled: the honest laugh at the knaue, to see how he shifts in the world: and the knaue laughs at the honest, to see how his simplicitie is abused. For particulars, how any one laughs at another, either the old at the yonthfull, or they at the aged, I dare say nothing: but wert thou here, and I had not the more cause of sorrow, we would laugh a little together, to looke at the laughter of this world: but they say, he may laugh that wins, at least till he lose againe: but the natures of their laughing are diuers, and very strange: for some laugh so loud, that they are noted foolish: some laugh so wide, that they shame their mouthes for lacke of teeth: and some laugh so cunningly, that they smother it by in a smile: but let them laugh till they be wearie,

C

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rie, it is a good World when men are merry. Which hoping thou art, so praying thou mayst bee, that when we kindly meete, we may commune better of these conceits, wishing thee all contentment, and my selfe the happinesse of thy good company: till I see thee, I rest one and the same.

Thine as thou knowest, R.W.

A Letter to a friend for newes.

Cousin, I know, you that live abroad in the World, cannot but heare of newes every day, which we heare in the Countrey, should be glad now and then to be acquainted with: your labour will not be much in writing, and for your kindnes, it shall not be requited: we heare much murmuring of many things, but little truth of any thing, but from you that know, I would be glad to learne. There is a speech among some idle Astronomers, that the man in the Moone hath fallen in love with a Starre, and walking thorow the Clouds, was almost drowned in the water: & that the Tumblers of the Forrest, have spoiled a number of blacke Conies, so that Rabbits are so deare, that a poore man may be glad of a piece of Button. It is said here with us in these parts, that you of the Citie are much troubled with a new disease: truly we haue reasonable good health, but that there are such plagues in diuers houses, what with these wode Wives, & euill Husbonds, Stubborne Children, & wicked Seruants, that many honest men cannot live in quiet with their Neighbours. Though the Spring be not very forward, yet there is great increase of many things, especially of Children, which how they may answer the Law, I will not greatly stand upon. Thus hauing no matter of moment, wherewith at this time to trouble you, intreating you that I may shortly heare from you, I rest, in much affection

Assuredly yours, R.T.
His

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His Answer.

My good Cousin, to answer your kinde Letter, if there were any thing here worth the writing, I would not haue bene so long silent: but such are the occurrents in these places, as are either not worth the noting, or better vnspoken then written: for loue in youth is full of idlenesse, and malice in age so malicious, that vertue is so hid in corners, that there is little or nothing spoken of her account. For the man of the Poone, I leaue him to waite on the Sunne: but if he haue a mind to any Starre, I leaue him to followe that Shole-light, for his waterie Element; since it is all in Clouds, let it hang in the Ayre, I will not meddle with his louing Astronomie. For Conies I am no Warrener, therefore let them that haue the keeping of the grounds, looke to their Games: I haue small sport in such idlenesse, but for a piece of Button, a yong Lambe is worth five olde Conies, and hee that is not glad of such a Feast, let him fast for his dinner. For our new disease, it is with many men in the head, and women in the tongue: Seruants grow great Libertines, and children are sicke of the Parents: and for Neighboys, there is so much loue in the Streets, that there is almost none in the houses: and therefore, besides other ordinarie diseases, wee want no plagues to make vs looke into our sinnes. But God amend all, for one will scarce mend another: and therefore intreating you to haue patience with me till the next weeke, when you shall heare of the best newes that come to my hands, I rest in bounden good will

Yours as mine owne, N.B.

A dissuasue from Marriage.

Met Cousin, I am sorrie to heare, that being so well at Ease, you will coozen your selfe of quiet: and for want of a Worlds Hell, you will put your selfe in Purgatorie with a Wife: but if it may be that I speake in time, heare what I say: If she be faire, it may breed iealousie: if foule, dislike and change: if rich, take heed of pride: if poore, misery: if yong, beware the wanton: if olde, take heed of the Woldame: if wise,

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He will gouerne thee: if foolish, he will fret thee: how beare soeuer thou lovest thee, he will, sometime or other, either crosse or flatter thee: and therefore if thou wilt bee ruled by a friend, let neither old nor yong, faire nor foule trouble thee: beleaue me as I haue read, these are the properties of most Wines, to weaken strength, to trouble wit, to emptie Burses, and to breed humors: but if I be deceiued in my reading, or mine Author in his writing, either in altering your course, or prouing your comfort, tell me your mind when we meet. Till when, wishing your continuance of that quiet wherein you now liue, or the true contentment of the best loue; leauing to your discretion the managing of your affection, I commit you to the Almightye.

Thine ouer as his owne, T.W.

The Answer.

Good Cousin, I finde your kindnesse aboue your knowledge, in mistaking Paradise for Purgatory: for a Wife is the wealth of the mind, and the welfare of the heart: where the best iudgement of reason findes discretions contentment. May be, is a doubt: but what is, must be regarded, in which sense I am pleased: where Youth with Beautie, and Wit with Vertue haue power to command, there kindnesse must obey. Pouertie I feare not, and wealth I seeke not: but it sufficeth mee to seeke no other Fortune for the summe of my worlds happines: where the auoyding of euill, and the hope of good, makes me know more comfort then you are able to conceiue, till you enter in that course, wherein the ioy of Lone is the second blessednesse of this life. What shall I say, but that I know not what to say to expresse the perfection of this pleasure, that puts downe all idle imaginations: from which, hoping to see thee remoued when I see thee: Till then and euer, I rest

Thine as thou knowest, B.D.

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A kind Letter of a Creditor for mohey.

Sir, I pray you, take it not unkindly, that I write thus earnestly unto you; for more necessitie then Will hath begg'd mee unto it: my money is not so much, as you well able to discharge it: my losses by Sea, and ill Creditors by Land, make mee straine curtesie with my Friends, for their good helpe in an extremitie, yet doe I desire nothing but my due: but as I was readie to lend, I would be glad to receiue, with that fulnesse of good will, that may continue our kindnesse. I write not this as doubting your discretion, but to intreat your patience, if your purse bee not in tune: for were I as I haue bene, and hope to bee, I had rather beare too long, then aske too soone; especially of so good a Friend, as I haue alwayes found of your selfe. Consider therefore of my case, and in your kindnesse answer me. Time is precious, and therefore lest by disappointment I bee dis-furnished, and so perhaps discredited, I pray you, speede your answer: which, howsoeuer, shall be welcome: and therefore earnestly intreating you to helpe mee now, that I may the better quit your kindnesse hereafter, with many thanks for your great fauours, which cannot be forgotten to be deserued: I take my leaue further at this time to trouble you, but will rest in what I shall be able euer to pleasure you, to make you know how much I loue you.

Your louing friend to command, T. R.

The Debtors answere.

Sir, your request is so reasonable, and your kindnesse so much, that for a greater matter then you demand, if my purse were not in tune, I would straine my credit very farre for you: beare then with my a little forgetfulness of my Day, and thinke it not trouble to my patience to bee put in minde of my credit: your Sea-losses I am sorry for, and with your reconery by Land. Debtors that will not pay, make Creditors

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toys they cannot lend : but for my selfe , to make you know how much interest you have in my affection, let mee tell you, that though by some unexpected expences , I am short of my hoped reckoning , yet upon the receipt of your Letter , I have bene thus carefull for you, your money I have sent you, and as much more for so long time I will lend you : which you shall receive of this bearer, & in my letter the day of payment : which if it may pleasure you so much as I wish you , I am glad I had it for you : howsoever it fall out , use it to your owne discretion : and so farre be alwaies assured of my love, that my word and deed shall be all one in your comfort. And so leaving ceremonious complements, in unfayned good will I rest, alwaies to my uttermost power,

Yours as mine owne, D.W.

A Letter of newes.

TO performe my promise in my last Letter, my kind and best Cousin, you shall understand of such occurrents, as I heare goe currant and for truth : I heare there are certaine old people that speake much of prophecies , where they set it downe for a certaine rule, that this yere , and many to come, he that wants money in his purse , and a friend in the Court, may walke in the Countrie, and picke straws for his comfort : for , the Law is very dangerous for begging , and Charitie is so cold. that the Poore must starue, rather then the Rich will want. Old men shall neuer be yong againe in this world, and beautie in a yong Woman will not let her know her selfe. Honestie without wit will die on the Foole, and craft without credit will labour to little purpose. In summe, there will be a great Plague among the Poore with lacke of mony, among Foles for lacke of wit, and Buaues for lacke of honestie : but it may bee Nature may alter her course in many things, and Prophecies may fall out in contrarieties. Howsoever it be, welcome that comes in Gods name : and so, hoping thou louest no legerdemaine , nor wilt be let away with blind Prophecies , writing this onely for exercise of a merry humour, I rest,

Thine what mine, P.R.

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The Answer.

Such idle prophets as you meete with, haue such kinde of matters as you write of : but let the world wag as it list, there is not a truer wag in the world then thy selfe : and were it not that I feare my letter would come to light, I would answere you in your kinde. But to bee short, let mee tell you, that Lawes are good to take order with such out-lawes, as after prodigalitie, put themselves vpon charitie. And yet to croffe your rule of little experience, old men may haue young humors, false Menches put wise men to their wits : and honesty may thrive with a meane trade, when a craftie knaue may lose by his cunning broking. As for the plague, I feare me it is neuer from you : for if neighbours agree, yet their times may fall out : and while the poore fret, and the rich frowne, there is little hope of health, where the world is so out of quiet. And therefore hoping that you haue wit enough to beware the knaue and the Poole, and to make your choise of the best companie, wishing your continuance of your good humour, with thanks for your waggish Letter, I rest in our old league,

Yours as mine owne, R.W.

A Letter perswading to marriage.

Dear Cousin, I doe not a little wonder at your solitarie life, and more at your little care to match your selfe in marriage with some Virgine worthy your loue : will you leaue the world without memory of your name : your inheritance to no issue of your owne hono^r and run a course of too little comfort ? Wee thinke that your knowledge of the diuersitie of varieties, should settle your content vpon some speciall vertue : what if some women bee aged ? some are youthfull : and some froward ? other may be kinde : and some wanton ? there are better staied : and some sullaine : some are louing : and is there none can fit your humo^r ? God forbid,
the

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the Law of Nature, the Law of Reason, the Law of God both will it, that lone breeds increase by a vertuous coniunction, which cannot be performed without the honoz of this course. Bastards will be witnes of their Parents wickednes, when naturall Childzen are the ioy of their Fathers: and a true loving Wife is worth a thousand wild Walkers: her care in the House, her kindnesse at the Table, and her comfort in the Bed, are pleasures better conceined then expressed: fall then aboord with such a Bird, as you may hold for your Phoenix, and thinke thy mind at best libertie, when it is free from the bonds of folly. In fine, let me intreat thee to make thy House a Home, thy Wife thy worlds lone, & thy Childzen, thy earths ioy: which, as I hope, thou wilt bee glad to haue, I shall bee glad to see. For good speed whercof, in heartie prayer I rest,

Your loving Cousin, R. W.

His answer.

My kind Cousin, I see you are better read then experienced: for Batchelers Wives, and Maidens Childzen, are pretie things to play withall: but he that knows manie dangers, will take heed of all. A Wife is an euclasting substance, which if it be not of the better nature, is a perillous thing to meddle withall: for if it catch hold of the hands, it may put the Heart to a soze paine: and the Phoenix is such a Figure, as if I must finde her in a Woman, I feare mee I must seeke a great way for her. For the lawes that you speake of, I yeeld to Truth: but Lone is so nice an humour, that hee seldome settles in a place: for Bastards, I loue not the breede; and better Childzen will doe well when they come: For Bed and Boord and those tricks, let them ioy in them that haue them; when I find time, I will thinke on them: in the meane time, moze at quiet in my lodging with a friend, then, perhaps, I may be at home with a Wife, not soe wearing Marriage, nor posting to Purgatorie, in steed of mistaken Paradise: wishing thy prayers for my better happines, then Louers idlenes, and if I doe marry, to be kindly watched, I rest

Thine as mine owne, D. L.

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A Letter of vnkindnesse vpon a denyall of
a courtesie.

If my deserts had not exceeded my desire, I would haue hated the nature of my humoz, which loues nothing lesse then to be too much beholding: my request was not much, and the grant but easie, howsoeuer for ill fashion, the excuse may be cunningly framed: but though I conceiue vnkindnesse in this course, I can rather grieue then be angrie, for I will mistrust my wit, till I see too much of my sorrow, and loue my friend, though I bee plaine with his patience: bee content therefore rather to let mee tell you of my discontent, then to couer a dissimulation, and to wish your better regard of my affection, which in denying a trifle, may lose a greater benefit: but not to goe too farre in impatience, let mee thus grow to an end: Friendship once grounded is not easily removed: and therefore being assured of my loue, bears with my dislike, and wherein I may better pleasure you, doubt not the ill requitall of vnkindnes, for I can chide, and not bee angrie, and better loue you then tell you so. And so entreating your reasonable answer for my satisfaction, I rest, all displeasure set apart.

Your loving friend, N.S.

His Answer.

Your humozous kind of writing, put mee to studie for an answer: for your anger without cause, may moue cause of anger: you know you might command what I am, and will you haue more? Conceit may bee deceiued, and so kindnesse abused, and suspicion of impatience hath the least part of discretion. Excuses are idle among friends; and therefore words shall be deferred till our meeting: when, seeing your owne fault, you will not thinke amisse of your friend: grieue not then without cause, nor bee carryed away with conceit: and as you know my nature, command my loue, which is far from the thought to make a friend beholding:

JF

be

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be not discontent with a denyall, till you haue better reason of displeasure: but measure me with your selfe, and you shall finde small cause of difference: if there bee any, let kindnesse dispute it, reason confesse it, & patience heare it; so shal friends be themselves, and you and I shall not fall out. So hoping that you will satisfie your selfe with this answer, till we meet to talke further of the matter, I conclude with your kindnesse, and rest euer
Yours as you know, T. W.

A Letter to an vnthankfull person.

I Haue heard, that a Prince sometime ordaining a punishment of all offences, lest ingratitude to the gods to plague, as past mans power to punish enough: the Tale may well bee true, considering the bilenesse of such a nature, as I thinke the like liueth not in the shape of man. Couldst thou not only forget, but abuse my kindnesse, and so make a Monster of a wicked shadow? I could not haue beleened it, had I not too well prooued it: But I wish you could leaue the humour, lest it make a lothsome nature: and though I will not reuenge a wrong vpon a subiect of so much basenesse, yet will I learne to know the condition of so much bilenesse, and as well warne my friends from an enemy, as further abuse mine owne wit with so mistaking of a friend. In brieft therefore, let mee tell you, as I know you, I regard you, and as I sound you, I leaue you, as one fit, if there lacked a Card, to pnt in the Rocke for a wicked helpe. And so sorrie to haue lost so much time to write to you, I wish all the World that knowes you, to hate you.
Your enemy from the heart, D. M.

His Answer.

How strangely men will write, that impatience doth put out of order! A good turne is lost, when it is cast in the receivers teeth, and abuse misconceiued can hardly bee well

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well excused : consider better of what is done, then wrong the meaning of a good mind, and you shall find without excuse no true cause of displeasure : if the information of malice haue moued choller without iudgement, poore men must endure the miserie of euill fortune : against my selfe I will confesse nothing, but referre time to deceiue all doubts, when truth shall put the differences betwixt a shaddow and a better substance. So leauing ill humors to like minds, & good thoughts to better natures, hoping to find you your selfe, which will be farre enough from that you wryte : in spight of the Denill, I commit you to God, and so rest

Your friend, whether you will or no, D.R.

A Letter to laugh at, after the old fashion
of loue to a Maide.

After my hearty commendations, trusting in God that you are in good health, as I was at the wryting heresof, with my Father and my mother, my Brothers and Sisters, and all my good friends, thanks be to God. The cause of my wryting to you at this time is, that, Ellen, I doe heare since my comming from Wakefield, when you know what talke we had together at the signe of the blew Cuckow, and how you did giue me your hand, and sweare that you would not forsake me for all the world; and how you made mee buy a King and a Hart, that cost me eightene pence, which I left with you, and you gaue me a Rappin to weare in my Hat, I thanke you, which I will weare to my dying day : and I maruell if it bee true as I heare, that you haue altred your minde, and are made sure to my neighbour Hoglins younger sonne : truly, Ellen, you doe not well in so doing, & God will plague you for it, and I hope I shall lide, and if I neuer haue you : for there are moze Maids then Maulkin, and I count my selfe woorth the whistling. And therefore praying you to wryte mee your answer by this bearer my friend, touching the truth of all, how the matter stands with you, I commit you to God. From Callow grans.

Your true Louer, R.P.

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Her Answer.

Tuly, Roger, I did not looke for such a Letter from your hands, I would you should know I scozne it : Haue I gotten my Fathers and Mothers ill will for you, to be so bled at your hands? I perceiue, and you bee so iealous already, you would bee somewhat another day. I am glad I finde you, that you can beleue any thing of mee: but it is no matter, I care not, send me my Rappin, and you shall haue your Ring and your Hart, for I can haue enow if I neuer see you more; for there are more Batchelers then Roger, and my pennie is as good Silver as yours, and therefore seeing you are so lustie, euen put by your Pipes, for I will haue no more to doe with you: And so vnlaying all that euer hath bin said betwixt vs, make you choice where you list, I know where to be loued, and so I end. From Wakefield.

M. R.

From a Father to his Sonne.

My Sonne, I hope so well of your disposition, that you will not vnkindly conceiue of that which in loue I write, for such is the nature of my affection, as I had rather bee vnderstood in careful aduising you for your good, then found winking at your ill: it is told me, which I am sorrie to heare, but would be more agrieved to beleue, that you are verypreadie in writing your name vnder Bills and Obligations: by which, as well for your owne idle expences, as to pleasure other in hurting your selfe, you beginne to take vp so fast, that I feare you will bee so low taken downe, that you will hardly euer rise againe: beleue mee, Sonne, Suretiship is a priuie enemy to a good nature, which may sooner pay thee, then receiue one: and therefore among other things that I would shew you to take heed of, let Suretiship bee one of the chiefest: what you can spare your friend, denie him not: but as you loue your libertie, beware of sealing and deliuering: Play

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Play is but losse of time, that might be better imployed, for the gaine is but vngracious, and the losse is often grieuous: and therefore vse it little, and rather for company then pleasure. Dancing I allow of: but let not your Legs sling away your wit in waisting your wealth: spend by measure, how-soeuer your Spittke make you dance: bee carefull of thy speech, thristle in thy expence, warie of thy companie, and zealous of thy friend: serue God, and feare not the Devil: what thou needest, let mee know, and in thy care of my counsell let me see thy loue: of which hauing no doubt, and therefore wishing thee all good, desirous shortly to heare from thee, I rest,

Your louing Father, T. W.

The answer.

My deare Father, farre be it from my heart, to haue an vnkinde thought of so kinde a Father, in whose good aduice resteth the most part of my worlde's happinesse: for as you haue heard, which I beseech you to beleue of me, I haue seene in other so great mischiese and miserie to ensue vpon Suretiship, that I will rather with neuer to write, then to subscribe to my ruine. For so few pay their owne debts, and so many pay for others, till they haue nothing to pay for their owne, that who keeps my friendship for that end, shall misse of my loue in another: and therefore feare not what you heare, but beleene what I say: touching Play, I loue not to trouble my braine with idlenesse, nor lose time in the abuse of hope: for Dancing, as it is an exercise that I doe not dislike, so is it not so much my delight, but I can rather leaue it then loue it: but for my expences, feare not so much my little care of your charge, nor lesse regard of your loue: in which, vnder Heauen, holding my hearts chiefe happinesse, in prayer for your health and hearts ease, I take my leaue.

Your obedient sonne, T. VV.

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To a Friend familiar.

Having little matter wherewith to entertaine your expectation, I haue bene enforced to studie for nothing: by this Bearer I know you looke to heare from mee, and to salute you with silence, were a cold commendation: let it therefore suffice you to heare of my health, and the good passages of all your proceedings touching your Law causes: wherein if my loue saint my labour, I will leaue to bee my selfe: ere it be long, I shall haue occasion to come néere you, when a few miles shall not bee a little out of my way to see you, when if your Faulcon be in tune, I will be glad to see a flight: so soone as conveniently you may, I pray you let mee heare from you: and if you come to the Towne, let my house be your Anne, where making your owne welcome, I hope we shall be merry: And thus for want of matter, briefer then I would be, I commend my loue to your kindnesse, and so rest, alwayes

Your assured loving Friend, M.R.

The Answer.

He that hath his wits at commandement, needeth little to studie, and therefore being provided of inuention, a little matter will serue turne: if of nothing you make so much, what would you doe of a little more? Thus I write, to méete with your humour, which in silence speaks more, then he who talkes much to lesse purpose: in brieft, for your kind Letter I thanke you, for your care of my businesse I will haue care of you, and for your selfe onely I loue you: if you haue occasion to come downe, vse my house as your owne: my Faulcon hath killed a Partridge, but of her flight I will make no brags, but when you come, you shall see sport, that I am perswaded will like you: in the meane time glad to heare of your health, the continuance whereof I heartily pray for, wishing as soone as conveniently I may, to see you,

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you, that wee may trie a course with our Greyhounds for
a fat Bucke, hauing now no matter of import, wherewith
to trouble you, with my most hearty commendations, I
commit you to the Almighty,

Your very louing Friend, C.L.

To a familiar friend.

Either paper is scant, your affaires are great, or your
spirit is lazie, that in so many weekes I haue not heard
from you so much as how doe you? the cause I would be glad
to know, so it be not such as I shall be sorry to heare, that ei-
ther lacke of health or libertie, be not the cause of your silence:
I pray you therefore mend this little fault in friendship, to
ease the trouble of imagination, and in a sufficient excuse
set my thoughts at quiet, which being much distempered
through doubt of your health, haue sent this Bearer vpon
purpose vnto you: whom I beseech you in all loue returne to
mee with all speede: nelues wee haue none worth the wi-
ting, and therefore knowing your spirit, desirous not to be
troubled with toles, in that heartie loue that holds you as
deere as my life, wishing no greater worlds comfort then in
the continuall inioying of your happie companie: hoping
shortly to see you here, which can bee no sooner then long wi-
shed, and shall be euer most welcome, in the vnfained affecti-
on of a true friend: I rest

Yours as mine owne, N.B.

The Answer.

I perceiue it true, that I haue often heard, that loue is not
without iealousie, but as fearefull of hurt, as carefull of
good: but to put you out of all doubts, that may be some dis-
quiet to your wished rest, let it suffice you to know my
health as you left it, I thanke God for it: my affaires are
not such, but I could salute my friend, nor my spirit so lazie,
but I could write a letter to my so much beloued, & to excuse
my

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my silence, let mee tell you, that the last weeke I wrote unto you by your Fathers Bailiffe, who, I marvell, hath not deliver'd it ere this time: in that Letter you shall find my mind touching your suite in Court: which, I feare, if it be tedious, will prove more chargeable then commodious: but observing a good course, a good oportunitie may be prosperous: in my Letter I have written at full unto you, wherein, I hope, you will cleere all suspicion of any fault in my silence, and expect my comming downe ere it bee long: in the meane time with heartie thanks for all kindnesse, without any further needlesse complements, I rest

Yours, or not mine owne, R. B.

A Loue Letter.

Faire Mistresse, if vpon so small conference, words may haue credit, thee shall not live, whose fauour shall command more of my service: for such is the vnfaigned affection, in which I haue deuoted my selfe to your imployment, that if there be a heauen in this world, I will seeke that Paradise, but in your kindnesse: thinke not I seeke with Eloquence to creepe into your good opinion: for I had rather be, then seeme to be, him that you will I shall be: for such being your worthinesse, of farre more honour then the service of my affection, mistrust not truth who hateth the thought of dissimulation, and wisheth no greater happinesse then in the honour of your commandement: for louing but you, being fauoured by you, I cannot bee happie but in you: to court you with flattery is too common a folly, and to bribe your kindnesse, were a conceit of basenesse: but to auow your service, let it be the duty of loue, which from my heart to your eyes be a messenger of my true thoughts, who with all their power, to my vttermost power, haue coniu'd mee in true service.

Yours onely and wholly, I. M.

The

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The Answer.

GOD Sir, to abuse your kindnesse, were as vngracious,
as to admit your seruice, might be dangerous: & there-
fore not vnthankfull for your offer, giue mee leaue to consider
of the acceptation: a sudden passion holds not, and a first
view may be deceitfull: lead not then your heart by your eyes,
to the hurt of your spirit, and sake not happinesse in com-
mandement, where libertie is so much contentment: liking
may be short of loue, and fancie may bee mistaken in the true
felicitie: but if truth haue deuot'd your loue, hono^r will bee
the reward of your seruice, which if you shall proffer to a
more worthy, you shall make your selfe the more happie: for
my selfe, I will thinke the best, till I finde the contrarie: but
to auoid the worst, blame mee not to bee carefull: a good be-
ginning, with a better proceeding, promiseth a blessed ending;
which wishing you in all those courses, where truth is honou-
rable in all her actions, hauing no occasion of your employ-
ment, in a friendly title of commandement, readie to requite
that kindnesse that is honorable in construction, I rest as I
finde cause,

Your longing friend, M.R.

To a familiar friend.

HAuing so fit a Messenger, I could not let him passe with-
out some remembrance of my loue vnto you: wherein
if I may any wayes pleasure you, I will bee readier to per-
forme it then speake it: touching such things as you wrote
vnto me by the Carrier, I haue taken such order for them, as
I hope will be to your content: not a little glad that I had so
good oportunitie to speake with the parties, so soone vpon
your Letter. I assure you, I found them as tractable as you
could wish. I haue stayed all causes till your coming to
Towre, when I hope to bring all matters to a good end: I
haue sent you by this Bearer a Hundlet of Shacks, I hope
not of the worst, howsoeuer it be, I wish it better then it is:
I pray you take it in good part, and write me word how you
like

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like it: that I may either thanke my Wintner, or change him: newes here are none but old, or false: and therefore onely wishing you all happinesse, with my hearty commendations to your selfe, and to your good bed-fellow, I commit you to the Almighty. London this tenth of Iuly, 1604.

Your loving friend, T.W.

An answer.

I Have received your kind Letter and friendly Token, for both which, with many other good favours, I most heartily thanke you; and for your care of my businesse, be you assured it shall not be forgotten. I will bee at London if I can, within this moneth, when you shall rule me in all things as you list: I am glad you haue spoken with them, and hope by your good meanes to haue a peace after a long warre: if it had not bene for mine Ague, I had bene with you the last weeke, but as soone as I am sound, I intend to see you: in the meane time, in requitall of your Hacke I haue sent you a fat Doe, which if it prove like your Wine, I am sure it will passe with warrant: as it is I commend it to your kindnesse, and my selfe to your commandement: and so hoping of your good health: which I pray for as mine owne, with thanks to your Wife for my Banbury Cheese, for which I haue sent her a pound of Pepper that shee wrote to mee for: readie in what may lie in our powers to pleasure either any one, or both of you as one: I take my leave at this time, but rest alwayes

Your pious friend, M.R.

A Letter of Loue to a faire Mistresse.

Sweet Ladie, if the reach of my capacittie could clime the hope of your favour, it should be a strange piece of service that I would refuse at your commandement: but, when I thinke upon your Noblenesse, and then behold, mine owne unworthinesse, I can but swallow up those sighes, and dare
speake

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speake nothing of my loue: & yet when I know that the eyes of honoꝝ regard vertue in no litle grace, in the seruice of honoꝝ, I can feare no ill fortune, in the nature of which humblenesse, throwing my heart vnto your hands, at the feet of your fauor, laying the height of my hopes happinesse, till occasion of imploymēt, and euer deuoted to your commandement, I rest without rest, till I may euer onely and wholly rest

Yours, in all I am, or not to be my selfe at all, D.G.

Her Answer.

Sir, I haue heard it of the wise, thus, if hope clime to honoꝝ, vertue is a good hold, whose seruice the most noble do most fauorably entertaine; in the nature of which humoꝝ, if your affection be groundd, haue no feare of fortune, howsoeuer enute be your enemy. Who speaks all in saying nothing, may vnderstand an answer by the like reason, and think that hand vntwoꝝthy honoꝝ, that will not kindly regard the heart of loue: leaue then the sighes of feare to the faithles, & swallow not a Gudge in a dreame, but as you finde cause of honoꝝ, so perfoꝛme either your loue oꝝ seruice, which too good soꝝ an vntwoꝝthy, reſerue soꝝ your better fortune: And so in the best sort of kindnesse, ready to requite your good meaning, I rest in what I may,

Your assured friend, T.N.

Roger to Margerie his Sweet-heart.

MArgerie, I haue receiued you snappish Letter, whereby I see you are moze angrie, then I thought you would haue bene soꝝ a mis-word oꝝ two, but I hope to mend what is amisse; soꝝ I see I was too blame: soꝝ now I finde the knaueserie of the world, I will looke a little better to my selfe: soꝝ it was your Cousins doing to deuise yēs, to set you and me out, but if you will be ruled by me, we will meet with them well enough: vpon Friday He meet you at the Market, where we will haue a Cake and a pot, at the Pie-trill and the

A Packet of Letters.

Spurre, there we will strike by a bargaine, that will not bee broken in haste : and so sorrie with all my heart that I haue done as I haue done ; sending thee twentie kisses by my sister Parnel, and this bowled Groat for a Loue-token, I rest

Yours from all the World, R.H.

Her Answer.

O Roger, the World is well amended : I thought you were misused, to write to me as you did : but friends are ne're so farre out, but they may be as farre in againe: and therefore since it was against your will, I forgive you with all my heart : and let my Cousin doe his worst, He not goe from my word: on Thursday He met you at ten of the clock, and bring a piece of Bacon in my pocket to rellish a cup of Ale, when, it shall goe hard, if all hit right, but some bodie shall wipe their nose for their knauery; and so, Roger, hoping that you will no more abuse me as you haue done, to beléeue lyes and tales of me, till you know the truth, treading all unkindnesse vnder foot, I rest, with all my heart, as I was and will be euer,

Yours as you know, M.R.

From a Yeoman in the Countrey, to his Sonne
in London.

Sonne, you know what charge I haue bene at with you, as well in bringing you vp to London, as in furnishing you for your preferment : all which I hope you will haue such care of, that I shall not thinke any thing lost that I haue done for you : in any wise serue God, please your Father, & be carefull of such things as you are put in trust with, be rather an example of good then of euill, and haue patience with all things, howsoeuer you are crost in your expectation : beware of euill company, and Wilde, and Drunkenness, and take heede of following of faire women. I shall bee glad to heare well of you, and as I see you thirsty, you shall finde mee kinde :

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kinde: your Master is an honest man, and a good Trade is gainefull: but, I hope, I shall not need to be too earnest in advising thee for thy welfare. God, who hath created thee, I hope, will so blesse thee, that I shall haue ior of thee: and for my selfe, with my blessing, I haue sent thee herein inclosed a token of my loue, vse it to thy good: shortly, God willing, thou shalt heare further from mee: in the meane time and cōner, I rest,

Your louing Father, T. N.

An answer of the Sonne to the Father.

My good Father, I haue receiued your kind Letter and token, for which I humbly thanke you: and for such things as you wish me to haue care of, be you assured I will not be vnmindfull of: for, my Master, I thanke God, he putteth mee in trust more then I will speake, and vseth mee so kindly, that I were a Jew if I should deceiue him: but my Mistresse is so perillous a Woman, that if shee bee displeased, there is no quiet with her: but all the House may learne patience of my Master: and therefore I will sēde her humour, and let her haue her saying: for Women, when I meane to iuiue, I will take choice: and for euill companie, I hope, God will blesse me out of such as are not for my good: and therefore feare not, but I hope one day to giue you cause to thinke all well bestowed that you haue, or will lay out for mee. I haue sent you by this Bearer a Watking bag, my Mother a paire of Gloues, and my sister a Girdle: my Master hath him heartily commended vnto you and to my Mother: and desires you to send him by a good Cheese, which he will requite: hee hath sent my Mother a pound of Sugar, & giueth her thanks for her fine Puddings: this is all that at this time I haue to walte vnto you, and therefore beseeching your blessing, praying to God for your health and long life, with my humble dutie to you and my good Mother, and commendations to all my Friends, I commit you to the Almighty. London.

Your louing Sonne, VV. N.

A Packet of Letters.

To a Wife in the Countrey.

God wife, in all kindnesse I commend me to thy selfe, assuring thee that I thinke it long till I have dispatched my businesse, and am at home againe: but I hope of good successe in my suite, for my Counsell doth warrant my case cleare: vpon Fryday next I shall haue triall, which I doubt not will goe on my side: if it doe not, my thought is taken, for I thanke God, I can liue without it, though I would bee loth to lose it: my health I thanke God, I haue well, and pray for the same for thee and thine: I pray you send mee by twenty pound by this bearer, with all speed: and within five dayes after the dispatch of my businesse, expect my comming downe: in the meane time kisse my little Babes for mee, to whom, with thy selfe, I send my hearts hoping commendations, & so in haste I commit thee to the Almighty. London.

Your louing Husband, W.T.

The Wiues Answer.

Sweet-heart, your Messengers haste makes mee briefer then other wise I would be: the good dispatch of your businesse I hope and heartily pray for: your health I am glad of, and your returne cannot be so soone as wished for: your money I haue sent you by this Bearer, your little ones, with my selfe would be glad to see you, who doe not a little misse you for diuers causes too tedious at this time to trouble you withall: but in any wise, remember your Girles Cawle, and your Boyes Hat, which will not be a little welcome: but, good Husband, make one end of another with it this Wearme, lest delays and demurres make you to spend moze in it then it is worth: but you know what to doe, better then I can aduise you: and therefore leauing it to your discretion, to doe what shall best please you, I commit you to God, in haste.

Your louing Wife, M.T.

A

A Packet of Letters.

A Letter vpon ordinarie causes.

Sir, it is giuen me to vnderstand by some that lately came from those parts, that in the Ilands there haue arriued of late, certayne Fishermen, that by a crosse wind, and sudden tempest, are diuen into your Harbour: if it be true, and that they lye there for any time, I pray you faile not to buy mee a hundzeth of Ling, as much Haberdine, and other Fish, such as you thinke good: I would lay out a hundzeth pounds willingly: what you lay out, you shall vpon your Letter haue paid here in London, to whom you shall direct it: I haue sent you downe by the Carrier a piece of broad Cloth, of the same colour wherof you wrote vnto me; I am assured it will be to your liking: if you need any more, or any thing else that may lie in my power, I pray you make as bold of me as any friend you haue. Cole-fish and poore-John I haue no need of, and therefore hoping that you will husband my purse as a friend, with my heartie commendations, I commit you to the Almighty. London, this 8. of Nouember, 1604.

Your louing Friend, M. R.

The Answer.

Sir, your Letter and piece of Cloth, I haue receiued, for which I heartily thanke you, for which you shall receiue money by my Cousin at Dice-key, when it please you to send to him: But for the fisher-men, indeed they put in for a night, but in the morning the wind came faire, and they put to Sea againe: so that except a few Ling that they bestowed vpon our Mayor and Bailiffes, for some fresh victuall that they had from vs, there was little bought here at this time: but wee heare of them, that shortly we shall haue a flete come by vs, when if there bee any good to be done, I will not faile to befriend you to your content: in the meane time wishing any good occasion, wherein I might requite your kindnesse, in prayer for your health and hearts ease, I commit you to God: Yarmouth, this xv. of December. 1604.

Your assured to command, D. N.

A

A Packet of Letters.

A Letter to a friend for dispatch of businesse.

I Am bold to entreat your kindnesse, to keepe me in what you may, touching the purchase of the Milles and the Hoppe-gardens, for which if your neighbour will take mine offer, I am for him, or else I must otherwise determine of my money that I haue reserved onely for that vse. I am offered great penny-worthes in diuers places: but the aire pleaseeth me well about that house, & the Trouts in the little Brookes haue made mee haue a great minde to dwell thereabouts; if therefore you can bring him to my price, I will be beholding to you: if not, let me know his minde, and I am satisfied: for to tell you troth, I will haue it, though it cost me more then it is worth: and so entreating you to doe mee what good you can herein, for which you shall not finde me vnthankfull, I rest,

Your loving Friend, A.W.

The Answer.

I Received your Letter, dated the xiii. of this moneth, whereby I vnderstand your minde touching the Lease of the two Milles and the Hoppe-garden: but I cannot bring it to passe one penny vnder the sum, whereupon hee tels me, you were in a manner agreed: the man is hard, but very honest: and the Land good, and lyeth finely to the house: the soyle is healthfull: and there is good store of Springs; besides, the Riuer is not farre off, whereby you may haue carriage weekly from the Citie vpon a small reckoning: but vse your discretion, the price you know, and mee you may command, but time would not be deferred, for there are many about it: and therefore leauing to your discretion, either take it, or refuse it, with assurance of my helpe to the vttermost of my power, either in this or what else may pleasure you, I alwayes rest

Yours as you know, T.D.

Her

A Packet of Letters.

Letters of Loue betwixt *Rinaldo* and *Lorina*.

Fairest of the world, and sweetest on the earth: the beautie of whose eyes puts the best wits to admiration: and the wisdom of whose government commands the honour of long service: how should my amazed spirit hope of power to presume nere the happines of your favour? No, Fortune is my ever-swoyne enemy, and desert must take place in a higher reach, then the longest arme of my unworthinesse: yet let me not be so deprived of reason, that I may not looke into the nature of vertue, where honour in kindnesse makes beautie Angelicall, but in the humilitie of affection to offer the imployment of my service, in which, if I faile the expectation of your affection, vpon the condemnation of insufficiencie, let disgrace be my deadly punishment, where, in the labyrinth of sorrow, I may languish all my dayes: but if the Fates be not too slowward in crossing the indues of my dutie: be you gracious vnto Loue, that hath wholly swoyne me your servant; with which title if I may be honoured, I will seeke no other colours of my comfort: but fearing your unknowne occasions of affaires, I will not be tedious to your patience, but rest ever in my loue.

Your vowed, though not allowed servant, Rinaldo.

Her answer.

Wittiest of a hundred, and craftiest of a thousand, whose eloquence, like inchantment, would take prisoner a weake iudgement; how shall my simple capacitie conceiue the gift of your deice? Fortune is but a fiction: and therefore it is no matter for her friendship, while desert hath a power in the preferment of dutie, and loue in vertue giues an honour to beautie: where if reason be carefull, affection may be ioyfull: but leaue Angels to the Heauens, and take heed of Demils on the Earth: which vnder the cloake of humilitie hide the head of ambition: perfection hath no affinity with corruption, and what the Heauens determine, the world must indure: but in flattery of my perfection, you haue deceiued my expectation, who imagining you wise, am sorry

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to see the contrarie: and if I might be iudged, the Law should quickly haue his course, where dissimulation appearing, should be condemned to perpetuall disdaine: but hoping better of your humor, then to wrong the simplicitie of beliefe, let the patience of affection lead you out of the labyrinth of sorrow, to the mountaine of that blisse, whose vertue may giue you grace, & in the comfort of your chiefe care, you may find the Heauen, or your hearts top, to the attainment whereof, leauing your thoughts to their best issue, I rest as I may,

Your friend, Lorina.

A Reply.

THe high honour of your vertue, that from the merit of your graces speth thorow the World, so farre beyond fame, as makes her amazed at her wonder, so dampeth the power of my spirit, that as an eye, which in beholding the Sun, twinkleth with the lids, for feare to lose the light: so the humble eye of my heart, that in beholding the bright beames of your Sunny beauty, trembling in feare by presumption to lose the light of loues hope, submitteth it selfe to the will of that power, which in pittie may saue, or in furie may kill the life of that Creature, who at the feet of your latour hath laid the height of his felicitie: thew therefore the heavenly nature of that vertue, which may purchase your worthy honor: take not pleasure in destruction, that may bee gracious in comfort: but leade the heart by your eye that hateth the light, but in your loue: where in the glasse of clearest grace, truth may see her beautie unspotted, and honour in truths service, craves but the intertainment of imployment: in which, time shall confirme that care shall euer conclude: my thoughts shall be onely honored in your service, and my loue euer happie in your commandment: in hope whereof if I may, I will rest.

Yours euer, Rinaldo.

Her Answer.

THe low course in loues comfort that you take, to leaue you into my liking, is so farre from the nature of good desert,

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desert, that I know not whether Silence were a fit answer to idlenesse, or reprehension a iust reward for inuidiction: and therefore in doubt what to doe, pardon mee if I doe not as I should doe: for though wisdome would admit no cause of danger, yet courtesie is such a Law in Nature, as is too great a friend to loue: yet if I could chide, and not be angry, I could wish you leaue a creeping climbing, lest you be thought a baser creature, then may stand with the honour of your condition: leaue a twinkling eye to owly sights, and figure not Sunne in the Cipher of a shadow: nor presume further then you may passe without feare, but in submission vse that discretion, that may maintaine the reputation of affection: and be perswaded that vertue cannot bee ingracious, howeuer folly run vpon the destruction, murder is hatefull to nature, and loue is the Joy of reason: what then should trouble a good spirit that is possessed of no euill humor, but in the resolution of honour to build the hope of his happinesse: and while colours are fittest for Painters, to march vnder the Ensigne of truth, where in the field of fame, vertue carrieth the victorie, to the tryall of which service, leauing the happie euent of your aduentures, I rest as I may

Your p:ore friend assured, Lorina.

A familiar Letter to a friend in the Countrey.

How nere ingratitude is to forgetfulnesse, I would bee loth my silence should make prooffe, especially knowing the kinde welcome of my vnworthy Letters: and therefore vnderstand you that all things are here as you left them, health nothing impaired, and our substance (if wee may so terme our drasse treasure) little diminished, but our minds through want of your company, not so merry as when you were with vs: for the fustie spirits of vnseasoned wits, who vnderstand no other wealth then their owne will, make time tedious; which were it better exercised, would bee much more pleasing: and to tell you truth, were not Wokes my
D 2 better

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better friends, I should bee subject to much melancholy: but my Librarie, though but little, stands mee in much good stead, in which, if there bee any Booke that may pleasure you, I pray you make vse of it, & so soone as you well may, let me intreate your returne, and till then your often writing: that we may ioy in our health, which as I hope of, I daily pray for. Jewes here are many, but so few true, or of any worth, that being in doubt what to believe, till I haue further certaine intelligence, I will craue pardon for this time, and rest alwayes

Your assured louing friend, W.T.

The Answer.

In reading your Letter, then which, nothing but your selfe can be moze welcome: me thinkes I see the meeting of two Louers in a morning, who surely dreaming of each other in their sleepe, scarce well awake, came out with a kinde of wonder, Oh Lord, how haue you done since yester-night! so may I say to you: it is not a full worke since wee were together, and shall wee seare silence for so little awhile? but what shall I say? it is a pleasing humoz to sollicite loue, and a content to the minde to continue kindnesse, which fortune crossing in want of presence, wit can worke in spite of absence: let then the muddie fish dwell in miry Lakes, and the better natures seeke their swæter places: and for thy Librarie, I will not make thee jealous of my loue, but let mee tell thee, they are most sweet companions, & so for their owne sakes esteeme of them: and though I loue them, yet will I not depriue thee of any of them: but when I come to thee, with thy loue and leaue, I will dwell among them: for to an vnderstanding spirit, they are a kind of Paradise. Now for my health, I thanke God, I need no Physicke, and for my Purse, it hath bent enough for letting my money grow rusty: and for my minde, to tell thee truth, it is with God and thee: with whom I hope to be shortly, till when, and then, and euer, I rest

What mine thine, F.R.

A Packet of Letters.

A Letter from a Father to his Sonne
at the Vniuersitie.

M^y deare Sonne, as nothing can ioy the heart of a Father more, then the obedience of a louing Child, so can there bee nothing more grieuous then the Stubborne spirit of an vngracious Sonne: I speake this to thee, knowing thy yeeres and vnderstanding able to digest the consideration of my desire, which, in summe, is my ioy in thy god: so, let me tell thee, my estate thou knowest, and how much I haue strayned my credit for thy aduancement, to which, learning being a speedie and assured good meane, I would be glad to see my comfort in thy profit, in such fruits of thy studie, as with the blessing of God, may hasten thy preferment: I am sorry to tell thee, that I heare thy diligence doth not answer my desire, and would gladly wish it otherwise: but I hope, a kind admonition will suffice to worke a good nature: and therefore will rather hope the best, then doubt the contrarie: and in the loue of a Father, let me intreat thee to auoid the company of a lewd fellow, as rather an enemy then a friend: the Feminine sexe are dangerous to affect, for as they will be a losse of time, so with hinderance of studie they will procure expence: the exercise of the body I admit for thy health, but let thy loue be in thy learning, else wilt thou neuer be good Scholler: for Desire and Delight are the best Masters both of Arte & Knowledge, while Reason vertuous, makes Understanding gracious: and therefore not out of the bitter humour of displeasure, but the carefull nature of affection I write vnto thee, for thine owne good: and so praying to God for thee, whom I beseech daily to blesse thee, with my hearts loue, to the Lords blessing I leane thee.

Thy louing Father, H. N.

A Packet of Letters.

An answer of the Sonne to his
Father.

After the bonds of humble dutie, my good Father, I haue receiued your most kind & louing Letter, in which, how much ioy I haue receiued, I cannot expresse: fearing rather your sharpe rebuke, then louing admonition; but God is himselfe, who can and doth worke more in some patures with a kind of chiding, then in some other with many stripes: I know, you are not ignorant of the inclination of youth, and therefore doe thus kindly touch the hurt of vnkindnes: for which, how much I doe humbly thanke you, I hope my care of your counsell, in time, shall pleasingly tell you: therefore, for what till you haue heard, grieve not; and of the good you may heare, doubt not: and beleue me, for I will not abuse your trust, what vanitie soener I haue seemed to effect, my Wake hath borne the griefe of my loue, in which, how much I will labour, and from which, what profit I will gather, your hope shall see in the effect of Gods blessing: without the which, how dangerous are diuers studies to the vnderstanding of vngenerous spirits, I would it were not knowne in any, and pray God that none may know it in mee: my preferment I leaue it to Gods pleasure, who best knoweth how to dispose of his seruants: and for your contentment, that it may bee in my obedience: your health, as my worlds happinesse, I pray for: mine owne moderate exercise, with abstinence from excesse, both with Gods blessing hold in good state: and for the Feminine sexe, though I would bee no Hypocrite, yet I had rather reade of them, then be acquainted with them: for I allow of your opinion touching them: and so hoping that ere long, you shall receiue as much content of my courses, as you haue euer doubted the contrarie, in the dutie of my humble loue, I take my leaue for this time, but rest alwayes

Your obedient sonne, T. N.

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To his deare and onely beloued Mistresse,
Susan Pearle.

Sweetest of my thoughts, and dearest of my loue, if Heaven had the power to remove the nature of my passion, I am perswaded that the eyes of my beautie would be safe a kinde looke upon the heart of my loue, which continually languishing in the doubt of thy affection; desireth not to live but in the comfort of thy kindnesse: loth I am with ceremonious eloquence to moove suspicion of Truth, and yet an Orient Pearle would be set in pure gold: great spirits fit not fine Spirits, and for your selfe, I will rather flatter then flatter you: and if I may serue you, I will not deserue of you, that I will lay the hope of my worlds happinesse upon the honour of your fauour: for setting aside all care of other contentment, I haue bequeathed my life to your loue: in which, if I faile in the truth of your trust, I must receiue the reward of your disgrace: which being more painefull then death can bee, let mee but intreat your aduocation of my seruice, beliefe of my loue, and regard of my well: which be it in body, or in mind, shall haue no rest, but in your pleasure. What shall I say: but time is precious, and delayed patience in passion most grievous: hasten therefore, I beseech you, the hope of my desire, in the happinesse of your commandement, and let no cloud of mistrust barre me the light of your loue, which being on this Earth the onely bright Starre that leades me to my worlds Heauen, let mee line as in a death, till I may reuiue in this comfort: in hope whereof, and prayer for which, laying the Head of my fortune at the Fete of your honour, I rest with little rest, till I may fully and wholly rest

Yours onely and all, or mine owne nothing at all,

T. I.

F I N I S.

and Thomas Maffins
Arthur Gaffon. 19th mo.

Arden Station

24 mo. 1891

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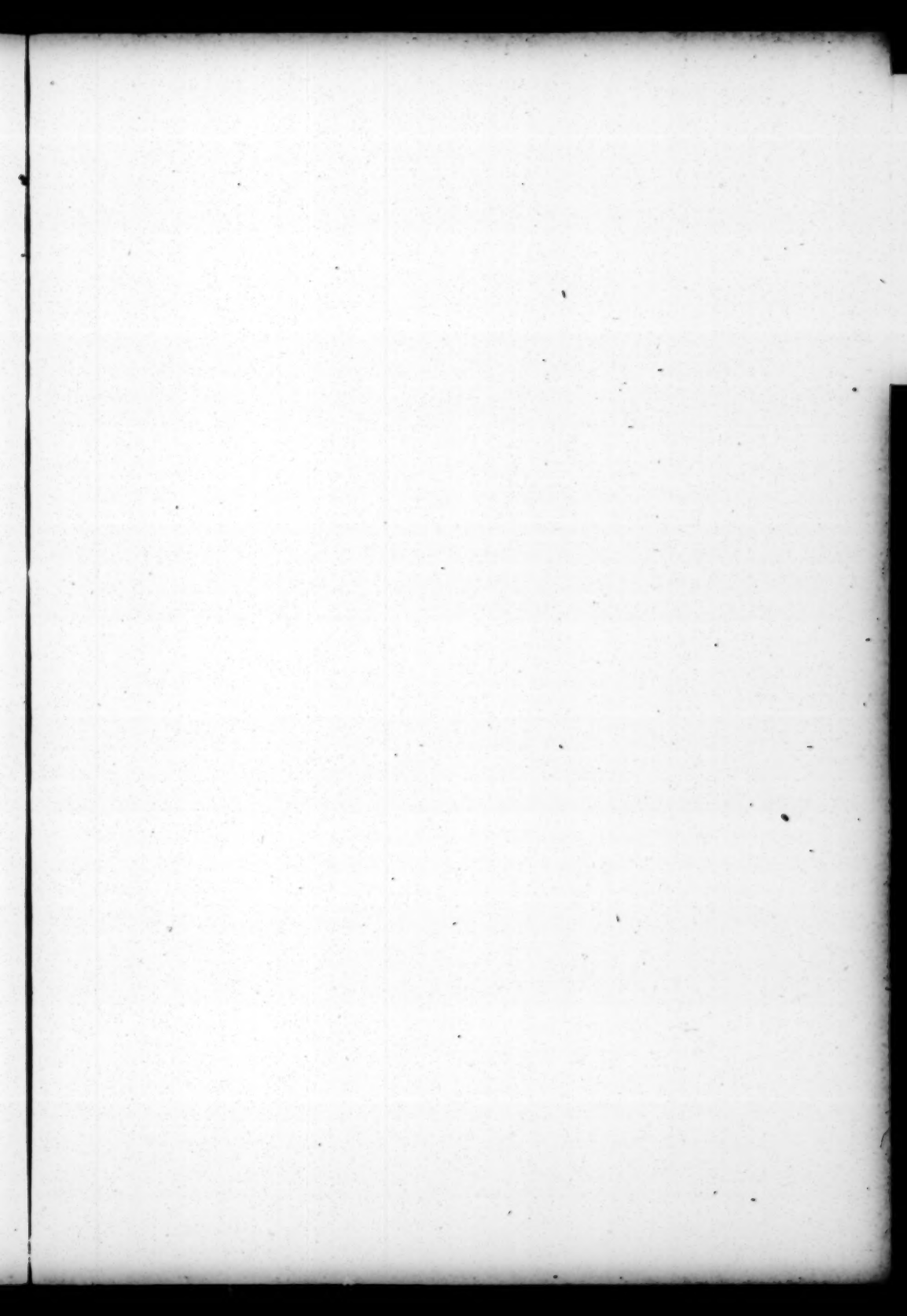
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